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ALTON,
Hants.

June 1944.

To The Alton Rural District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The following is my Report on this District for the year ending 31st December 1943.

The area of the District is (in acres) ...	65,526 .
The population 1931 census	20,455.
The population estimated in 1943	18,520.
The number of inhabited houses is	5,133.
The Rateable Value is	£131,113.
The sum represented by a penny rate is ...	£554.

According to the figures supplied to me by the Registrar the births and deaths are as follows:-

Live Births -	Legitimate (males)	156,	(females) 148.
	Illegitimate "	32,	25.

Total - 361.

Birth Rate = 19.4.

Deaths :- The total number of deaths, belonging to this District was 227 - of these 82 died outside my District.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population = 12.2.

Deaths from puerperal causes ...	1.
" of infants under 1 year...	11.
" from Cancer	38.
" " Measles	0.
" " Whooping Cough ...	0.
" " Diarrhoea	0.

Deaths over 70 years of age numbered 98 - of these, 45 were over 80 and 9 were over 90 years of age.

General provision of Health Services for the area:-

The Public Officers are:-

Medical Officer of Health - Part-time officer.
The Senior Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor - whole-time officer. He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and is an Associate Member of the Institute of British Engineers.
The Assistant Sanitary Inspector - whole-time officer.

There has been no change during the year in laboratory facilities, ambulance services, nursing arrangements or hospital accommodation.

WATER:-

The parishes of Four Marks, Bopley and West Tisted are almost wholly supplied by underground rainwater storage tanks owing to their elevation and the depth of the water-bearing strata.

In the past, the Council's policy with reference to the

new buildings has been the requirement of underground rain-water storage tanks of a minimum capacity of 2,500 gallons. In actual practice, tanks of approximately 3,700 gallons capacity were constructed. The policy has now been amended to require the tanks to be of a minimum of 5,000 gallons.

The parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden are supplied from the mains of the Herriard & Lasham Water Company, and the Company have statutory powers to supply water in the parishes of Four Marks and Medstead, and services have been extended into the parish of Medstead during the war, and for agricultural purposes into the parish of Four Marks.

The parishes of Bentley, Froyle, Grayshott and Headley are for the great part supplied by the Wey Valley Water Company.

Under guarantee or loan assistance from this Council, the Wey Valley Water Company have provided supplies in the parishes of Binsted, Chawton, Farringdon, Kingsley, Selborne, and Whitehill. A scheme has also been prepared for the provision by the Company of a supply to the parish of Newton Valence, but this has not been proceeded with although the matter is under review.

I have no knowledge of plumbo-solvent action arising in connection with any of these supplies.

DRAINAGE & SEWAGE.

No change has taken place during the year regarding existing or contemplated schemes.

A scheme of Mutual Support, following enemy action, has been arranged in co-operation with adjoining authorities.

RIVERS & ST EAMS.

Routine inspections are being carried out to prevent pollution.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There has been no change affecting closet accommodation throughout the district during the year.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE. All Scavenging Contracts, except one regarding night soil in the parish of Grayshott, have been terminated, the Council having undertaken during the year direct collection of night soil, wet refuse and cesspool emptying in a defined area of the parish of Whitehill. A house-to-house collection of salvage is carried out once monthly throughout the whole district and fortnightly in two parishes. The collections are carried out by the Council's own employees and vehicles.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION:-

Necessary routine inspections have been maintained. A tour of the hoppickers' accommodation was made by Dr. Boucher, of the Regional Minister of Health during the picking season.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:-

As far as circumstances have permitted routine inspections have been maintained throughout the district. Complaints have been dealt with, and abatement enforced.

Special attention has been given to drainage difficulties

which naturally arose as a result of military occupation of properties and the occupation of dwellingh uses to full capacity by civilian evacuees , which led to overloading of drainage systems originally designed for a normal number of occupants.

CAMPING SITES:-

Occupation of sites has been considerably reduced.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME:-

The district is being used extensively for billeting of civilian evacuees both under the private arrangements scheme and for the reception of organised groups from bombed areas; London, Portsmouth and Southampton.

HOUSING SITES:-

Reconditioning of cottages under the Housing Rural Workers Act is proceeding.

Necessary action is being taken to record particulars of properties considered unfit for human occupation but no demolitions have been carried out during the year.

Overcrowding occasionally occurs, principally as a result of billeting under the private arrangement scheme, but abatement has been brought about, without undue delay.

MILK SUPPLY:-

Routine inspection of dairies and cowsheds have been carried out . Milk production has increased throughout the district and new producers have been added to the register, the premises having been brought up to the required standard.

MEAT & OTHER FOODS:-

Under permits, issued by the Food Officer, the release of parts of carcases of home reared pigs for sale has led to the reintroduction of slaughtering. Necessary inspections are carried out as required for this purpose.

In connection with condemned foodstuffs co-operation with the Ministry of Food Salvage Officers has led to salvage and use of the foodstuffs for animal feeding or other purposes.

TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF FOODSTUFFS CONTAMINATED BY GAS:-

The necessary squad for this purpose has been recruited and trained and a Decontamination Station set up at lton for the joint use by the Alton Urban and Rural Districts.

MILITARY BILLETING:-

Every opportunity has been taken to co-operate with the Military Authorities regarding the suitability of sanitary arrangements in connection with the billeting of troops throughout the area

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

Measles was prevalent at the beginning of the year - 140 cases were notified. There were 28 cases of scarlet fever scattered throughout the district - in no part of the district was there a

definite outbreak.

All the cases were of an extremely mild type.

It is estimated that nearly 99 of 11 the children in the schools in the district have been inoculated against diptheria.

103 children at school were immunized and 90 under 5 years.

There were 2 cases of diptheria - one a child who had come from an infected area in another district and had not been immunized and one woman aged 60.

	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ...	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	26	26	-
Diptheria ...	2.	2	-
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyreroia	1	1	-
Pneumonia ...	5	-	5

Age Groups)	3	4	5	10	15	20.
Scarlet Fever)	5	2	13	4	1	1

Cancer:- There were 36 deaths from Cancer - 18 males and 18 females.

Age Distribution	Males.	Females.
50	5	9
60	5	3
70	8	6

Scabies:-

189 cases of scabies have been trated in the Isolation Hospital by the Red Cross Voluntary workers.

38 male patients with 6 cases recurring.
65 female patients with 19 cases recurring.
86 children with 15 cases recurring.

Scrubbing is done with soft soap in hot water followed by application of Benzil Benzoate Emulsion - two treatments at 5-day intervals. Disinfection of bedding is done from Hostels and Institutions only.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS:-

No cases of Opthalmia were notified.

TUBERCOLOSIS:-

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

(See next page for Table).

TUBERCOLOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Deaths. Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
5.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
15.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	3	2	1	-	2	2	-	-
35.	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
45.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	4	2	3	4	2	1	1

No action was taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tubercolosis) Regulations 1925 or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1935.

I should like to add that your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bennett, has rendered very valuable services during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CURRER WILLIAMS.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.